

CLAIMS :

1) An automatic editing method of video sequences to produce lenticular grid hardcopies based on shot sequences produced by a digital camera, comprising

- 5 a) the selection (22) of a first set of images (S_1) in a shot image sequence,
- b) the assignment (24) to each image (100) of the image set of an individual quality factor as a function of image characteristics,
- c) the selection (28, 28a) of at least one new image set (S_2) by
- 10 replacing at least one image of the previously selected image set by a new image of the shot sequence, and absent from the previously selected set,
- d) the preparation (32) of image data to form a lenticular grid hardcopy, based on an image set taken from among the previously selected image sets and with the highest overall quality factor, the overall quality factor being a
- 15 function of the individual quality factors of the images of each selected image set.

2) A method according to claim 1, comprising the calculation (26) of the overall quality factor of the first selected image set, and between steps c) and d):

- 20 - the calculation (30, 30a) of a new overall quality factor of each new set of images,
- the search, among the sets of selected images, for the set with the highest overall quality factor to prepare the printing data.

25 3) A method according to claim 1, wherein the images of the first image set respect a regular order of images of the shot sequence.

 4) A method according to claim 3, wherein, during step c), the new image set is selected with the same regular order O as that of the previously

30 selected set, by choosing images respectively offset against the images of the previously selected set by a number of images less than the regular order O .

5) A method according to claim 1, wherein step c) comprises:
the selection of several new images in the shot sequence, the
assignment to the new images of a common quality factor established based on the
individual quality factors, the comparison of the common quality factor with the
5 individual quality factors, the comparison of the common quality factor with the
common quality factor of the images of the previously selected image set, having
to be replaced by the new images, and the replacement (33) of the images having to
be replaced by the new images when the common quality factor of the new images
is superior to that of the images having to be replaced.

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6) A method according to claim 1, wherein step c) comprises the
selection of a new image in the shot sequence, the assignment to the new image of
an individual quality factor, the comparison of the individual quality factor with
the individual quality factor of an image of the previously selected image set,
15 having to be replaced by the new image, and the replacement (33) of the image
having to be replaced by the new image when the individual quality factor of the
new image is superior to that of the image having to be replaced.

7) A method according to claim 6, wherein the new image is an
20 image immediately neighboring the image having to be replaced in the shot
sequence.

8) A method according to claim 6, wherein the new image is offset
from the image having to be replaced in the shot sequence by an offset rank more
25 than or equal to one, and in which the image having to be replaced is replaced by
the new image when the quality factor of the new image is superior to that of the
image having to be replaced by an amount that is an increasing function of the
offset rank.

9) A method according to claim 1, wherein the images of the first
30 image set are selected so as to contain the same iconic element.

10) A method according to claim 1, comprising, the selection of interest zones (104) in the images and the replacement of the images by new images corresponding to the interest zones.

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11) A method according to claim 1, wherein the individual quality factor is fixed according to at least one characteristic taken from among the overall sharpness, the exposure, the centering in relation to an interest zone, the sharpness of the interest zone, the presence of human faces, and the amount of movement as against the neighboring images of the shot sequence.

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12) A camera (200) comprising a selector control (220, 221) between a capture mode of a single fixed image and a capture mode of an image sequence, the camera also being equipped with a single control (224) for starting an automatic editing method according to claim 1, in response to the capture of a sequence where the number of images exceeds the number of images capable of being contained in a lenticular grid hardcopy.

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